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FROM HEWSON A. RYAN, ACTING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, XM

SUBJECT: ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

1. SUMMARY: REPUBLICAN PLATFORM PLANK ON THE PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS REMAINS ACCEPTABLE TO THE ADMINISTRATION, BUT A FLOOR FIGHT IS POSSIBLE IN KANSAS CITY NEXT WEEK. OAS INTERVENTION HAS DEFUSED THE HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR BORDER CLASH, EVEN IF THE TWO SIDES ARE NO CLOSER TO NEGOTIATING ON BASIC CAUSES OF THE CONTINUING DISPUTE. BILL MAILLIARD AND BOB WHITE TESTIFIED ON THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE. AN ARTICLE ON TORTURE IN THIS WEEK'S TIME, WITH GRUESOME EXAMPLES, CITES SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES AND BRAZIL AS AMONG THE WORLD'S MOST FLAGRANT VIOLATORS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. ARREST OF AMERICAN PRIEST IN ARGENTINA DRAWING PUBLIC ATTENTION TO ARGENTINA'S WORSENING HUMAN RIGHTS REPUTATION.

2. PANAMA CANAL:

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A STATEMENT BY SENATOR HELMS INDICATES THE CANAL ISSUE MIGHT PRODUCE A FLOOR FIGHT IN THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

HE SAID THAT ANYTHING LESS THAN "DON'T GIVE IT AWAY" SHOULD BE "TAKEN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE." REJECTING (BY A TIE VOTE) A REAGAN DELEGATE'S LANGUAGE THAT THE UNITED STATES NEVER RELINQUISH "SOVEREIGNTY" OVER THE CANAL, THE PLATFORM SUBCOMMITTEE ADOPTED A COMPROMISE STATEMENT ON AUGUST 11 THAT THE UNITED STATES "IN NO WAY WILL YIELD ANY RIGHTS OR JURISDICTION NEEDED TO PROTECT ITSELF OR THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE." ANTI-TREATY FORCES ARE UNLIKELY TO GIVE UP PLATFORM FIGHT BECAUSE OF THIS NARROW DEFEAT, HOWEVER.

3. HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR AGREEMENT ON TROOP WITHDRAWALS:

AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF PREDICTABLE CONFUSION ARISING FROM ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OAS MILITARY OBSERVER CONTINGENT, AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED THAT REQUIRES ALL TROOPS FROM BOTH EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE DISPUTED AREAS BETWEEN NOON SATURDAY 14 AUGUST AND NOON SUNDAY 15 AUGUST. SEVERAL REPORTS HAVE INDICATED THAT THE OAS OBSERVERS THEMSELVES WILL BE USED TO IDENTIFY THE DEMARCATION OF THE DISPUTED AREAS. GENERAL MIRO, WHO IS PLANNING TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON FOR A MEETING OF CONSULTATION ON AUGUST 16, HAS INTIMATED THAT THE PRESENT OBSERVER FORCE MAY BE EXCESSIVELY LARGE AND HE MAY BE PLANNING TO REDUCE THE NUMBERS, POSSIBLY TO AS LOW AS EIGHT OR TEN. MEANWHILE, HONDURAS HAS STATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO PAY FOR HALF THE COSTS OF THE OBSERVERS IF EL SALVADOR WOULD DO THE SAME.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS:

A. MAILLIARD'S CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMY.

BILL MAILLIARD TESTIFIED BEFORE THE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. FRASER RECOGNIZED THAT WE DID WELL AT THE OASGA IN SANTIAGO. DISCUSSION CENTERED MOSTLY ON MAKING THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MORE EFFECTIVE. FRASER WAS ATTRACTED TO MAILLIARD'S SUGGESTIONS. CONFIDENTIAL

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TION THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE MIGHT EXAMINE THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (WHICH WE HAVE NEVER SIGNED) IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE UNITED STATES' POSITION AS A SUPPORTER OF HIGH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IN HUMAN RIGHTS.

B. TORTURE.

TIME MAGAZINE THIS WEEK HAD A LENGTHY STORY ON TORTURE AND SYSTEMATIC VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IRAN AND

CHILE BORE THE BRUNT AS THE MOST EGREGIOUS VIOLATORS, BUT BRAZIL, PARAGUAY, URUGUAY, AND ARGENTINA ALSO EARNED DISHONORABLE MENTION. WE ARE BRACING FOR A NEW WAVE OF PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OUTCRY.

C. ARREST OF AMERICAN PRIEST FOCUSING ATTENTION ON ARGENTINA.

ON AUGUST 3, THE ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES IN CORDOBA ARRESTED FATHER JAMES WEEKS, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, AND FIVE OTHER PRIESTS ON CHARGES OF ALLEGED SUBVERSION. CONSULAR ACCESS TO FATHER WEEKS HAS BEEN DENIED SO FAR ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE IS BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO. WE VIEW THIS AS A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON CONSULAR RELATIONS, AND HAVE PROTESTED THE LACK OF ACCESS IN BOTH BUENOS AIRES AND WASHINGTON. A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF CONGRESSIONAL, PRESS AND PUBLIC ATTENTION HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON ARGENTINA AS A RESULT OF FATHER WEEKS' TREATMENT. ARGENTINA'S POOR HUMAN RIGHTS REPUTATION IS BECOMING EVIDENT TO MANY AMERICANS AS A RESULT OF THE PUBLICITY THIS CASE HAS GENERATED. ROBINSON

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